

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF NEW MAGISTRATE JUDGE

The Judicial Council of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals has authorized the appointment of a full-time United States magistrate judge for the Southern District of Mississippi at Jackson, Mississippi, to succeed in office the Honorable Alfred G. Nicols, Jr., upon his retirement.

The duties of the position include (1) conduct of most preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (2) trial and disposition of misdemeanor cases; (3) conduct of various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from a district judge; and (4) trial and disposition of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. The basic authority of a United States magistrate judge is specified in 28 U.S.C. § 636.

To be qualified for appointment an applicant must

- (1) Be, and have been for at least five years, a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the Virgin Islands of the United States, and have been engaged in the active practice of law for a period of at least 5 years (with some substitutes authorized);
- (2) Be competent to perform all the duties of the office; be of good moral character; be emotionally stable and mature; be committed to equal justice under the law; be in good health; be patient and courteous; and be capable of deliberation and decisiveness;
- (3) Be less than seventy years old; and
- (4) Not be related to a judge of the district court.

A merit selection panel composed of attorneys and other members of the community will review all applications and recommend to the district judges in confidence the five persons it considers best qualified. The court will make the appointment following an FBI full-field investigation and an IRS tax check of the applicant selected by the court for appointment. An affirmative effort will be made to give due consideration to all qualified applicants, including women and members of minority groups. Effective January 1, 2006, the annual salary of the position will be \$151,984. The term of office is 8 years.

Application forms and more information on the magistrate judge position in this court may be obtained from the Clerk of the U. S. District Court at 245 E. Capitol Street, Jackson, Mississippi (mailing address: P. O. Box 23552, Jackson, Mississippi 39225-3552), telephone (601) 965-4440. The form is also available on the court's Internet website at www.mssd.uscourts.gov. Applications must be submitted by applicants by mail or hand-delivery (nominations and recommendations will not be processed as applications) and **must be received by the court no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 20, 2006.**

All applications will be kept confidential, unless the applicant consents to disclosure, and all applications will be examined only by members of the merit selection panel and the judges of the district court. The panel's deliberations will remain confidential.

